

INFORMAL SECRET REPORT

COUNTRY Italy

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SUBJECT Section, Provincial, Regional and Central  
Schools of the Italian Communist Party

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#### Section School

1. Attendance, at the Section School, is compulsory for all party members. Instruction, offered at least three times a week, over a period of three months, by a corps of instructors and speakers designated by the provincial federations, includes lectures and conferences, illustrated in relation to current events, on the following topics: Introduction to Marxism, Basic Concepts of Communism, Concepts of Capitalistic History, and the Revolutionary Mission of the Communist Party. Particular attention is devoted to younger party members.
2. On conclusion of the course, those youths who, in the opinion of both instructors, and speakers, particularly have distinguished themselves, intellectually, dialectically, or otherwise, are transferred, on the previous authorization of the section leader, to the Provincial School.

#### Provincial School

3. Instruction in the Provincial School, likewise of three months duration, is a continuation, development, and enrichment of that pursued in the Section School, with (a) simple concepts being transformed into true and proper polemic weapons, and (b) instruction (limited to inexperienced youths, under twenty-one) designed to develop, form, and shape both the mentality, and the character of the student to the point of self-identity with a new religion.
4. On completion of the term, the majority of students are sent to the Regional School; the remainder are returned to the section, with special assignments, usually involving "agit-prop". The latter elements are obliged to continue to audit the most important lectures and conferences held at the Provincial School. Elementary training is concluded with instruction in the Provincial School.

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25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

Regional School

5. Regional Schools, on the federation level, function, in Northern Italy, at Milan, Turin, Genoa, Bologna, and Padua. Courses of specialized instruction, each of six months duration, are offered in Propaganda, Administration, Oratory, Organization, and Leninism-Stalinism, the last two combined.
6. Students are assigned to courses of instruction, arbitrarily, according to their personal characteristics, aptitudes, and understanding of party demands. Requests for reassignment may be submitted but never are recognized. Refusal of assignment results in dismissal from the school and return to the section, in disgrace. Formerly frequent, according to source, no refusals have been received during the past two years.
7. Class instruction is held for three hours, in the afternoon, and for two hours, in the evening. For the duration of the course, students are exempt from all party activities. Instructors are selected only from among the most brilliant and capable elements. The subjects of each course are chosen carefully for inspirational interest and developed to absorb the student's entire attention. Instruction in Organization, according to source, covers so many vital points that it never fails to provoke enthusiasm among students; instruction in Marxism and Leninism-Stalinism is presented in philosophical form. Students assigned to the courses in Organization and Leninism-Stalinism are required, through attendance at selected lectures, to become acquainted with the basic content of other courses.
8. On conclusion of the course, the majority of students receive a definite, permanent assignment, either with a section, or with a federation. The importance of the assignment, according to source, is by no means indicative of the student's capacity, since the section propagandist, the factory cell agitator, or the farm organizer may be selected from the top element, the only criterion being the exact balance between the student's capacity and aptitude.
9. The federation assigns a small remainder, possessing special qualifications, to the Central Committee, in Rome, for attendance at the Central School.

Central School, Rome

10. The Central School, which until the end of May, 1948, was located on the third floor of the building occupied by the PCI, in the Via Botteghe Oscure, Rome, since then, in order to provide increased office facilities, has been removed.
11. The course of instruction normally is of six months duration, to which may be added two months for specialization. The school opens on 1 November, and closes on 30 April. During the week, classes are scheduled regularly from 8:30 a.m., to 1:00 p.m., and from 2:30 p.m., to 7:00 p.m.. In the evening, students are required to attend conferences or the meetings of activists. On Sunday, classes are scheduled from 8:30 a.m., to 1:00 p.m., unless meetings or conferences are substituted. Sunday evenings are devoted to conferences.
12. Attendance, for the various courses of instruction, has been limited to a maximum of 150 students, per annum.

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25X1A

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 3 -

13. The organization of the course of instruction, with a list of individual instructors and lecturers, follows:

a. Organization

- (1) Syndicalism. Instructor, Pietro Ingrao, chief editor of the Rome edition of L'Unita, and, on occasion, Mario Montagnana, Fausto Gullo, and Giuseppe Di Vittorio, for conferences.
- (2) Strikes and Communications Techniques. Instructor, Pietro Secchia. Two lessons a week, usually in the afternoon. Numerous evening conferences held by various lecturers.
- (3) Capillary Organization, Technical. One class in the morning and two in the afternoon, with instructor, Teresa Noce; another in the morning, with instructor, Pietro Secchia.
- (4) Party Cadres and Line. One class in the morning, with instructor, Professor Ugo Trevisani. Conferences held in the evening.

The students of this course also attend the

b. Practice of Leninism-Stalinism

- (1) Philosophy. One class in the morning, another in the afternoon, with instructor, Professor Antonio Banfi. One class in the afternoon, with instructor, Professor Ugo Trevisani.
- (2) Praxis. Two classes in the afternoon, with instructor, Ruggero Grieco. One class in the morning, another in the afternoon, with instructor, Edoardo D'Onofrio. Numerous evening conferences, in both. Well-endowed library at the disposal of the students.

c. Administration

The subjects are purely economical in character. Direction of the course recently was entrusted to Mauro Scoccimarro. Three professors, unidentified, from the University of Rome, lectured.

14. Students assigned to the Organization and Leninism-Stalinism courses learn all rules and methods of organization, are kept au courant of everything pertaining to the courses, and, at the end of the course, are qualified as "competent in organization." They usually are assigned, for use as couriers, to a federation. Often they are dispatched to restore order and discipline in those party sections where crises have developed. Standard qualifications for admission to either course of instruction include (a) superior culture (nearly all have completed classical studies, through the lycee), (b) army training, (c) ability to exercise initiative on any occasion or during any emergency, and (d) knowledge of a foreign language.

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25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

4

15. The course of instruction is divided into three distinct phases, with (a) one month for the recapitulation of all subjects previously studied, as well as for the preliminary preparation of each student, (b) two months for assimilation and a more profound study of the party line, and (c) three months for development and organization. In the final phase, according to source, students carry out what may be termed "party vivisection." Discussions purportedly are free from any kind of restrictions. Students are encouraged to take part in them and to express criticism.
16. Both oral, and written examinations are conducted during the last ten days of April. Grades are calculated in thirtieths, the minimum being eighteen. The severity of the examinations is indicated by the results obtained for two years. Recently, the examining committee was composed of Pietro Secchia, Ruggero Grieco, Mauro Scoccimarro, Umberto Terracini, Teresa Noce and Antonio Banfi.
17. Of thirty-four students examined in Propaganda, twenty-one were successful. Of twenty-eight examined in Organization and in Leninism-Stalinism, twelve (of which seven were from Northern Italy), were successful. Of twenty examined in Administration, thirteen were successful. From this course, four members were assigned to Milan, one to Turin, two to Bologna, one to Naples, one to Bari, and one to Palermo. For the year, 1947/1948, of fifty-five examined in Propaganda, forty-one were successful. Of forty-seven examined in Organization and Leninism-Stalinism, thirty-six were successful. Of forty-two examined in Administration, thirty-four were successful.
18. Students remanded are assigned, as the need arises, to the various federations, for routine office work. Among those promoted, some are assigned specifically to the propaganda, executive, or organization sections of the federations; others, to the Confederazione Generale Italiana di Lavoro (CGIL). A small minority are selected to remain in Rome, and to attend a two-month course of specialization, during May and June, during which time all contact between students of different specializations is avoided and is forbidden.
19. Students are lodged by the federation, at various Case del Popolo, or with activists. Meals are provided at the various federation messes. Lunch is served from 1:30 p.m., to 2:30 p.m.; supper, at 7:00 p.m.. Students receive a monthly allowance of twenty thousand lire.
20. Various restrictions are placed on students. The student actually is free only on Sunday afternoon, from 1:00 p.m., to 7:00 p.m.. He is prohibited from frequenting non-Communist circles or the company of intellectuals. After the first three months, the political executive advises each student to choose his acquaintances among members of other courses of instruction, the ideal group being, according to source, one composed of a student from Administration, one from Propaganda, and one from Organization and Leninism-Stalinism. Each student is required to submit, to the political executive, a report on the behavior, the preferences, any routine divergencies of character in the other.
21. Eight members from the Central School, in Rome have been assigned to Northern Italy:

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25X1A

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 5 -

- a. Giuseppe Trevisani, currently vice editor-in-chief of the Milan edition of Sera, propagandist at the Milan federation (Trevisani received this last assignment following an unsuccessful mission as courier. Being the son of Professor Ugo Trevisani, no stronger measures were taken against him for his failure.)
- b. Veggetti (fmu), an organizing secretary;
- c. Calamandrei (fmu), currently one of the editors of the Milan edition of L'Unita;
- d. Paolo Muggiani, Turin;
- e. Luigi Sanfelice, Genoa;
- f. Marchioni (fmu), Genoa;
- g. Gustavo Santini, Bologna; and
- h. Tullio Brioschi, Bologna.

22. The Central School, Milan.

The Central School, in Milan, is located in Piazzale Libia 20, in a large villa. The school, for the training of future cadremen, propagandists, and leaders, is directed by Di Giovanni (fmu), an active party member and former student at the Central School, in Moscow. According to source, he lives a retired life and devotes all of his activities to the education and indoctrination of active party elements.

## 23. The course of instruction, of approximately six months duration, includes:

- a. History, interpreted along the line of historical materialism of Marxist origin;
- b. Political, economy; and
- c. Dialectics.

## 24. The last-mentioned, considered the most important course of the curriculum, is presented in its etymological sense, as the art of discussion, not in its rhetorical sense, as the exposition of philosophical theories by the postulation of antitheses. The course is applied to every field, with practical rhetorical exercises in propaganda and oratory, with discussions on political, social, and economic matters, and with the study of particular present or past situations. Other practical exercises include the organization of meetings within the school, with participation of the student body, and the preparation of plans for propaganda or sabotage, along lines of action assigned by the school, to suit an actual situation existing outside it.

## 25. The curriculum often is revised to fit the current situation, current needs, current available means. Theoretical studies also are revised constantly to meet practical necessities.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SO-18770

6

26. Students are divided into classes of approximately fifteen members each, after carefully having been selected from among the candidates proposed by the various federations. They never are admitted in great numbers. Once accepted, they are maintained at PCI expense, with the school providing both room, and board. Only under exceptional circumstances are students permitted to leave the school during the course of instruction.
27. Evaluation of students follows the Communist system, with a collective opinion expressed by the students, on one another, and with marks and comments made by the instructors. According to source, opinions always are objective, and favoritism is absent, as both the director of the school, and the instructors are held responsible for the accuracy of assessments.
28. Upon completion of the course of instruction, students are assigned to the various federations for practical training and subsequently to positions befitting their particular abilities. The school reputedly the only one of its kind, in Western Europe, is attended by students from outside of Italy, as well as by Italians.
29. Instructors are chosen from among PCI leaders of secure faith. Palmiro Togliatti and Pietro Secchia, both are reported to be interested in the school and to have lectured there.

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